

Opportunity for the
Coastal CoP to contribute
information on Program

Value to the Nation

<http://www.corpsresults.us>

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From our hundreds of [rivers](#), [lakes](#) and [wetlands](#) to our thousands of miles of [coastal shoreline](#), we are fortunate in America to enjoy an abundance of water resources. As a nation, we value these resources for their natural beauty; for the many ways they help meet human needs; and for the fact that they provide habitat for thousands of species of plants, fish and wildlife.

The Corps is proud to have the responsibility of helping to care for these important aquatic resources. Through its Civil Works program the Corps carries out a wide array of projects that provide:

- [Coastal protection](#)
- [Disaster preparedness and response](#)
- [Environmental protection and restoration](#)
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One of the biggest challenges the Corps and other government agencies face is finding the right balance among the often conflicting concerns our society has



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Coasts

From our bustling ports and harbors to our smooth, sand beaches, our nation's coasts are a testament to the economic vitality and natural beauty of America. Our coasts are also home to fragile ecosystems hosting many rare, threatened and endangered species.

The Corps undertakes numerous activities each year that are designed to [protect our coasts](#) from storms and development and to [restore their valuable ecosystems](#). These efforts include regional sediment management, beach nourishment and the construction of shore protection structures.

The Corps also plays a key role in keeping our [ports and harbors](#) running smoothly by dredging to maintain channel depths at more than 1,000 harbors. In addition, the Corps is focused on modernizing and upgrading the nation's ports and harbors to keep pace with growing commercial traffic.

The Corps is committed to working with a wide range of community, environmental, business and other groups to ensure that the projects it undertakes not only protect the environment but, whenever possible, enhance it. An excellent example is the dredging of Oakland Harbor. Over the years, the Corps has partnered with a number of organizations to ensure that this project, which is so vital to the area's economy, also benefits the environment.

As a major port of call for container ships bringing consumer and other goods in and out of the United States, the Oakland Harbor plays a crucial role in the nation's economy. However, like many other U.S. harbors, its role is in





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From the rocky coast of Maine to the sandy beaches of California, America's coastlines draw millions of visitors each year. In addition to their beauty, America's coastal areas also provide numerous recreational opportunities; habitat for hundreds of species of fish, birds and other wildlife; and a livelihood for millions of Americans.

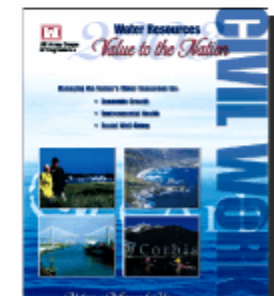
Coasts are dynamic areas, buffeted by storms--some mild and some fierce like hurricanes--that can change the way the area looks and functions over time. Erosion caused by storms eats away at developed land and ocean surges during storms can lead to flooding. Coastal areas and the wildlife that call them home also are impacted upon by natural events and human activities.

The Corps is an important partner in numerous programs and projects designed to help protect the [economy](#) and the [environment](#) of our nation's coastal areas by reducing the effects of these threats.

Corps coastal protection and restoration projects include:

- beach fills and nourishment to protect against storm surge and wave-generated erosion;
- construction of shore structures, such as sea walls, breakwaters, and revetments, to protect against flooding and erosion; and
- best practices sand management, like [regional sediment management](#).

Learn more about some of our [recent activities](#) designed to protect our nation's coasts.





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ECONOMIC IMPACT

Fifty four percent of Americans live within 50 miles of a coast, according to 2000 U.S. Census data. Over the next 25 years the population of such coastal states as California, Texas and Florida is expected by to grow by more than 36 percent.

Americans are drawn to coastal areas in part by the tremendous economic opportunities presented by industries such as tourism, shipping, and commercial fishing. The economies of these areas, though, are vulnerable to weather and the environment. Along the East and Gulf coasts alone erosion, flooding, hurricanes and winter storms threaten more than \$3 trillion in infrastructure adjacent to shorelines each year.

The Corps works to reduce damages to shorefront development caused by shore erosion, hurricanes, and abnormal tidal/lake flooding by undertaking a variety of shore protection projects.

As we implement these projects we look for the solutions that are the most economical, environmentally sound and socially acceptable. In some cases this will involve hard structures such as breakwaters, revetments and seawalls. In other cases a preferable approach is beach fill, i.e. the placement of enough sand along the beach to act as a buffer during storms to protect infrastructure and property. Storm waves move the sand offshore.





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ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

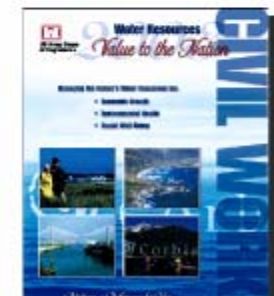
Our nation's coastal areas support diverse ecosystems housing hundreds of species of fish, birds, and other wildlife, including many that are rare, threatened or endangered. These fragile ecosystems are vulnerable to storms and economic development.

The Corps is dedicated to protecting and restoring these important ecosystems. For example, the Corps has been the lead agency on over 25 percent of the 300 completed projects recognized by Coastal America. Coastal America is an interagency ecosystem restoration effort.

The Corps also has been actively involved in efforts to preserve and restore the 11,600 miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay. Corps efforts have included restoring oyster beds and wetlands, reducing erosion, and cleaning up contaminated sites. Working in cooperation with a number of other federal and state agencies the Corps has helped restore 3,800 miles of riparian forest buffers, preserved over 6 million acres of land and re-opened 1,500 miles of river to migratory fish in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Other efforts focus on the restoration of coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands, which serve as valuable protection against flooding and provide important habitats for many rare, threatened and endangered species.

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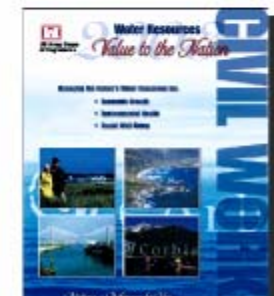
RECENT ACTIVITIES

Hurricane Isabel

In September 2003, Hurricane Isabel swept up the Eastern seaboard, causing damage in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. Several storm reduction projects implemented by the Corps in recent years helped to substantially reduce the damage in these areas.

For instance, the Virginia Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, and the Richmond Flood Wall are believed to have prevented more than \$113 million in damages in Virginia. The Corps large beach replenishment project at Ocean City, Maryland also effectively absorbed wave energy, protecting coastal properties.

Corps projects have provided similar protection against other recent storms, including Hurricanes Floyd and Fran. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, flood walls are being rebuilt to protect the coastline from future damage.



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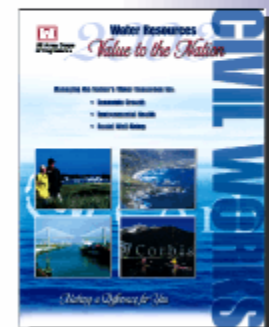
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Rivers



Lakes



Wetlands



Watersheds



Recent
Activities

Coasts

The fragile ecosystems in our nation's coastal areas are in peril from development and storms. The importance of protecting our nation's coasts grows each year as more and more Americans move to coastal areas. According to 2000 census data more than 54 percent of Americans live within 50 miles of a coast.

To help address this challenge the Corps has joined as a major partner in Coastal America, a coalition of 10 federal agencies and many, state, local and private organizations that are working together to address environmental problems along the nation's coasts. The Corps has been the lead agency on 25 percent of the 300 completed projects recognized by Coastal America.

The Corps also is involved in a number of other [coastal protection](#) and restoration projects aimed at:

- preserving and restoring coastal wetlands and estuaries;
- reducing shore erosion; and
- restoring beach habitat and oyster beds .

For example, the Corps is proud to be a key partner in the Coastal Louisiana project. This monumental effort seeks to restore and protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands, which are being lost at a rate of 25 to 35 square miles per year. These wetlands provide valuable habitat for a wide variety of fish, birds and other wildlife and offer important commercial, recreational, cultural, and physical benefits.



Coastal CoP can:

- Serve as network of experts to
 - Update existing site coastal information
 - Revise the coastal components of the VTN site
- Provide info on recent Corps projects in context of recent events
 - Info about accomplishments and their value
 - Benefits: economic, environmental, OSE

Coastal CoP and VTN Web info and Brochure

- A workgroup to lead update/development of Coastal Value to the Nation Information?
 - Incl: district, MSC, CHL, P-CX, IWR,
- All CoP members contribute

